

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03

OC-06 CCO-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /046 W

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P R 212032Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4829

FAA WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, VE

SUBJECT: AIRLINE STRIKE CONTINUES

REF: CARACAS 11253

1. VENEZUELAN AIRLINE PILOTS HAVE RENEWED THEIR STRIKE AGAINST BOTH DOMESTIC CARRIERS AVENSA AND AEROPOSTAL (LAV) AS WELL AS THE INTERNATIONAL CARRIER VIASA. CONTRARY TO THE PROMISE PILOTS THOUGHT THEY HAD THAT THE ONLY REPRISAL AGAINST THE STRIKERS WOULD BE LOSS OF PAY DURING THE STRIKE, AVENSA FIRED SEVERAL PILOTS FOR HAVING BEEN STRIKE LEADERS AND ORGANIZERS. THIS PRECIPITATED AN IMMEDIATE RENEWAL OF THE STRIKE.

2. PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL ADDRESS THE NATION AT 7:00 P.M. SEPT. 21 TO EXPLAIN THE STRIKE AND EXAMINE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS. MEANWHILE THE AIRLINES ARE INSISTING THAT THE MINISTER OF LABOR TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO END THE STRIKE. THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS WHO IS NOMINALLY HEAD OF AEROPOSTAL (LAV) AIRLINES WHERE THE STRIKE BEGAN AND WHERE OVER-REACTION TO THE INITIAL STRIKE HAS BEEN WIDELY CRITICIZED, IS

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RUMORED TO BE ON THE POINT OF RESIGNATION.

3. A VIASA OFFICIAL REPORTED THAT APPROXIMATELY 50 PER CENT OF GROUND SERVICE PERSONNEL HAVE ALSO JOINED THE STRIKING PILOTS AND THERE ARE RUMORS THAT MORE WILL JOIN. THIS COULD RESULT IN A COMPLETE INTERRUPTION OF ALL INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS IN AND OUT OF VENEZUELA.

4. COMMENT - WHILE PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS SHOWN MORE FLEXIBILITY THAN SOME OF HIS MINISTERS IN DEALING WITH THE STRIKE, IT APPEARS THAT HE WILL HAVE TO MOVE EVEN MORE QUICKLY IF A TRANSPORTATION STRIKE OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS IS TO BE AVERTED.
VAKY

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